

A photograph of a garden path lined with pink azaleas and a large tree in the background. The path is a narrow, light-colored strip that curves through the garden. The azaleas are in full bloom, with many small, light pink flowers. The tree in the background is large and dark, with dense foliage. The overall scene is a peaceful garden setting.

Carolina Country

formerly **CAROLINA FARMER**

APRIL 1971

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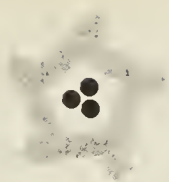
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Red Radiance Better Times Crimson Glory Poinsettia Mirandy	TWO TONES	President Hoover Betty Uprichard Edith N. Perkins Contrast Condesa de Sagato	CLIMBERS	Cl. Blaze Red Cl. Red Talisman Cl. Golden Charm Cl. Pink Radiance Cl. White Am. Beauty	Eclipse Golden Charm Peace Luxemburg Golden Dawn	Pink Radiance The Doctor Columbia Picture K. T. Marshall	WHITES	K. A. Victoria Caledonia K. Louise Rex Anderson White Am. Beauty
FLOWERING SHRUBS— 1 or 2 Years Old								
Crepe Myrtle—Red, Purple, Pink, White, 1 to 2 ft. -----	\$.69 ea							
Spirea Van Houttei—White, 1-2 ft. -----	.29 ea	*Paw Paw, 3 to 5 ft. -----	.29 ea	Early Harvest Apple, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.89 ea	NUT TREES—1 or 2 Years Old	8 Candytuft (Iberis), Semp. White	1.19
Spirea Reeniana, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	*Sourwood, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.69 ea	Early Harvest Apple, 4 to 6 ft. -----	1.49 ea	Hazel Nut, 1 to 2 ft. -----	8 Babysbreath, White	1.19
Weigela—Red or Yellow, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Yellow Buckthorn, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.59 ea	Red Rome Beauty Apple, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.89 ea	Hazel Nut, 3 to 5 ft. -----	8 Gaillardia, Red	1.19
Weigela—Var. or Pink, 1-2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Downy Hawthorne, 1/2 to 1 ft. -----	.59 ea	Red Rome Beauty Apple, 4 to 6 ft. -----	1.49 ea	Butternut, 1 to 2 ft. -----	8 Blue Flax (Linum)	1.19
Althea—Red or Purple, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Dwarf White Buckeye, 1/2 to 1 ft. -----	.69 ea	Red Jonathan Apple, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.89 ea	Butternut, 3 to 4 ft. -----	8 Shasta Daisy, Alaska	1.19
Althea—Pink or White, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Red Flowering Dogwood, 1 ft. -----	1.29 ea	Red Jonathan Apple, 4 to 6 ft. -----	1.49 ea	Chinese Chestnut, 1 to 2 ft. -----	8 Delphinium, Dark Blue	1.19
Forsythia—Yellow, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Red Flowering Dogwood, 2 ft. -----	2.49 ea	Lodi Apple, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.89 ea	Chinese Chestnut, 3 to 5 ft. -----	8 Tritoma, Mixed	1.19
Pink Spirea, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Red Flowering Dogwood, 3 to 4 ft. -----	3.98 ea	Lodi Apple, 4 to 6 ft. -----	1.49 ea	Hardy Pecan Seedlings, 1 to 2 ft. -----	8 Dianthus, Pinks	1.19
Pink Flowering Almond, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.59 ea	S-N-1 Flowering Crab, 3 ft. -----	3.98 ea	Grimes Golden Apple, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.89 ea	Stuart Pecan—Papershell, 2 ft. -----	8 Lupines, Mixed Colors	1.19
Tamarix—Pink, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Red Leaf Peach, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.89 ea	Grimes Golden Apple, 4 to 6 ft. -----	1.49 ea	Stuart Pecan—Papershell, 3 1/2-5 ft. -----	8 Sedum, Dragon Blood	1.19
Bush Honeysuckle—Red, Pink, White, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea			Yellow Transparent Apple, 2-3 ft. -----	.89 ea	Mahan Pecan—Papershell, 2 ft. -----	8 Clematis, Yellow	1.19
Red Flowering Quince, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	SHADE TREES—1 or 2 Years Old		Yellow Transparent Apple, 4-6 ft. -----	1.49 ea	Mahan Pecan—Papershell, 3 1/2-5 ft. -----	8 Fall Asters, Red or White	1.19
White Flowering Quince, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Silver Maple, 3 to 4 ft. -----	\$.39 ea	Yellow Delicious Apple, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.89 ea	Mahan Walnut, 1 to 2 ft. -----	8 Fall Asters, Pink or Lavender	1.19
Persian Lilac—Purple, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.39 ea	Silver Maple, 4 to 6 ft. -----	.79 ea	Yellow Delicious Apple, 4 to 6 ft. -----	1.49 ea	Black Walnut, 3 to 5 ft. -----	*Yucca, Candle of Heaven	1.19
Old Fashioned Lilac, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea	Chinese Elm, 2 ft. -----	.19 ea; 3-4 ft. -----	Early McIntosh Apple, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.89 ea	Shell Bark Hickory, 1 to 2 ft. -----	5 Oriental Poppy, Scarlet	1.19
Bridal Wreath Spirea, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea	Chinese Elm, 4 to 6 ft. -----	.79 ea	Early McIntosh Apple, 4 to 6 ft. -----	1.49 ea	American Beech—Collected, 3-4 ft. -----	2 Peonies, Red, Pink, or White	1.19
Hydrangea P.G., 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Green Weeping Willow, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.39 ea	S-N-1 Apple—5 Varieties on each tree, 3 ft. -----	3.98 ea	Japanese Walnut, 3 to 4 ft. -----	5 Mums, Red or Yellow	1.19
Oak Leaf Hydrangea, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea	Green Weeping Willow, 4 to 6 ft. -----	.69 ea	Montmorency Cherry, 2 to 3 ft. -----	1.49 ea		4 Dahlias, Red or Pink	1.19
Deutzia—White, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Catalpa Tree, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.29 ea	Black Tartarian Cherry, 2 to 3 ft. -----	1.69 ea		4 Dahlias, Purple or Yellow	1.19
Deutzia—Pink, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Ginkgo Tree, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.79 ea	Black Tartarian Cherry, 4 to 5 ft. -----	2.98 ea		3 Liriope, Big Blue	1.19
Mockorange—White, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Ginkgo Tree, 3 to 5 ft. -----	2.98 ea	Early Richmond Cherry, 2 to 3 ft. -----	1.69 ea		3 Liriope, Variegated	1.19
Sweet Shrub, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Pin Oak or Red Oak, 2 ft. -----	.79 ea	Early Richmond Cherry, 4 to 5 ft. -----	2.98 ea			
Rose of Sharon, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Pin Oak or Red Oak, 3 to 5 ft. -----	1.29 ea	Kieffer Pear, 2 to 3 ft. -----	1.49 ea		BERRIES, FRUITS AND HEDGE— 1 or 2 Years Old	
Red Ozier Dogwood, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Willow Oak or Scarlet Oak, 2 ft. -----	.79 ea	Kieffer Pear, 3 1/2 to 5 ft. -----	1.98 ea	10 Rhubarb, 1 year Roots -----	10 Asparagus, 1 year Roots -----	1.00
Pussy Willow, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Willow Oak or Scarlet Oak, 3-5 ft. -----	1.29 ea	Orient Pear, 2 to 3 ft. -----	1.49 ea	25 Strawberry—Blakemore or Tenn. Beauty -----	25 Strawberry—Blakemore or Tenn. Beauty -----	1.00
Pussy Willow, 4 to 6 ft. -----	.69 ea	Lombardy Poplar, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.06 ea	Orient Pear, 3 1/2 to 5 ft. -----	1.98 ea	25 Gem Everbearing Strawberry -----	100 South Privet, 1 to 2 ft. -----	2.49
Russian Olive, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.39 ea	Lombardy Poplar, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.10 ea	Bartlett Pear, 2 to 3 ft. -----	1.49 ea	25 North Privet, 1 to 2 ft. -----	25 California Privet, 1 to 2 ft. -----	2.49
Russian Olive, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.89 ea	Lombardy Poplar, 3 to 4 ft. -----	.19 ea	Bartlett Pear, 3 1/2 to 5 ft. -----	1.98 ea	25 Multiflora Rose, 1 to 2 ft. -----		2.49
Red Barberry, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea	Lombardy Poplar, 4 to 6 ft. -----	.29 ea	Moorpart Apricot, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.69 ea			
Jap. Snowball, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea	Faassen Red Leaf Maple, 3-5 ft. -----	4.49 ea	Moorpart Apricot, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.98 ea			
Red Snowberry, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Sycamore, 3 to 4 ft. -----	.49 ea	Early Golden Apricot, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.69 ea			
White Snowberry, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Sycamore, 4 to 6 ft. -----	.89 ea	Early Golden Apricot, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.98 ea			
Spirea, Anthony Waterer—Red, 1 ft. -----	.39 ea	*Sugar Maple, 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Nectarine, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.59 ea			
French Lilac—Red, White, Purple, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.98 ea	*Sugar Maple, 3 to 5 ft. -----	.59 ea	Nectarine, 2 1/2 to 4 ft. -----	.98 ea			
Scotch Broom, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Sweet Gum, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.49 ea	Damson Plum, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.59 ea			
*Hypericum, 1 ft. -----	.19 ea	Sweet Gum, 4 to 6 ft. -----	.79 ea	Damson Plum, 2 1/2 to 4 ft. -----	.98 ea			
Spice Bush, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	White Birch, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.89 ea	Red June Plum, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.59 ea			
Butterfly Bush—Purple, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea	White Birch, 4 to 6 ft. -----	1.98 ea	Red June Plum, 2 1/2 to 4 ft. -----	.98 ea			
Butterfly Bush—Pink, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea	*Tulip Tree, 3 to 4 ft. -----	.49 ea	Bruce Plum, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.59 ea			
Vitea—Purple, 1/2 to 1 ft. -----	.39 ea	Crimson King Maple (Pat. No. 735), 3 to 5 ft. -----	4.49 ea	Bruce Plum, 2 1/2 to 4 ft. -----	.98 ea			
Green Barberry, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Sunburst Locust (Pat. No. 1313), 3 to 5 ft. -----	4.95 ea	Methley Plum, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.59 ea			
Azalea—White, Purple, Red or Pink, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.59 ea	Cut Leaf Weeping Birch, 3 to 5 ft. -----	4.49 ea	Methley Plum, 2 1/2 to 4 ft. -----	.98 ea			
*Rose Acacia, 1 ft. -----	.39 ea	Silver Variegated Maple, 3 to 5 ft. -----	4.49 ea	Burbank Plum, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.59 ea			
*Red Chokeberry, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Schweider Maple, 3 to 5 ft. -----	4.49 ea	Burbank Plum, 2 1/2 to 4 ft. -----	.98 ea			
*Black Chokeberry, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	*Yellow Wood, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.98 ea					
*Hydrangea Arborescens—1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Canoe Birch, 3 to 4 ft. -----	.49 ea					
Spirea Thunbergii, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	White Ash, 3 to 4 ft. -----	.29 ea					
Winter Honeysuckle, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Green Ash, 3 to 4 ft. -----	.29 ea					
Arrowwood Viburnum, 1/2 to 1 ft. -----	.39 ea	Persimmon, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.69 ea					
*Beauty Berry, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Dawns Redwood, 1 to 2 ft. -----	2.49 ea					
Caryopteris—Blue Mist, 2 years -----	.98 ea	Honey Locust, 3 to 4 ft. -----	.69 ea					
Witchhazel, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.39 ea	Morain Locust, 4 to 5 ft. -----	4.98 ea					
*American Elder, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.39 ea	Kentucky Coffee Tree, 1/2 to 1 ft. -----	.49 ea					
*Opopssum Haw, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.69 ea	*American Linden Tree, 2 ft. -----	.79 ea					
False Indigo—Purple, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	*American Linden Tree, 3 to 5 ft. -----	1.29 ea					
FLOWERING TREES—1 or 2 Years Old								
Magnolia Grandiflora, 1/2 to 1 ft. -----	\$.49 ea	Skyline Locust (Pat. No. 1619), 3 to 4 ft. -----	4.98 ea					
Magnolia Grandiflora, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.98 ea	*Sassafras, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.49 ea					
Magnolia Niagara, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.39 ea	*Scarlet Maple, 4 to 5 ft. -----	.89 ea					
Magnolia Rustica Rubra, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea	Russian Mulberry, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.69 ea					
Mimosa—Pink, 2 ft. -----	.29 ea	Sycamore Maple, 1/2 to 1 ft. -----	.49 ea					
Mimosa—Pink, 3 to 4 ft. -----	.49 ea	*Black Gum, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.79 ea					
Mimosa—Pink, 4 to 6 ft. -----	.89 ea	Japanese Red Leaf Maple, 1 ft. -----	1.98 ea					
American Red Bud, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.29 ea	Norway Maple, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea					
American Red Bud, 4 to 6 ft. -----	.79 ea	Golden Weeping Willow, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.29 ea					
White Flowering Dogwood, 2-3 ft. -----	.29 ea	Golden Weeping Willow, 4 to 6 ft. -----	.69 ea					
White Flowering Dogwood, 4-6 ft. -----	1.29 ea	Amur Corktree, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.39 ea					
Pink Flowering Dogwood, 1 ft. -----	1.29 ea	Black Locust, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.29 ea					
Pink Flowering Dogwood, 2 ft. -----	1.98 ea	Bald Cypress, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea					
Pink Flowering Dogwood, 3 to 5 ft. -----	3.98 ea	*Little Leaf Cucumber, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.69 ea					
Golden Rain Tree, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.79 ea							
Golden Rain Tree, 3 to 4 ft. -----	2.49 ea							
Golden Chain Tree, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.79 ea							
Smoke Tree, 1 to 2 ft. -----	1.49 ea							
Purple Leaf Plum, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.59 ea							
Purple Leaf Plum, 2 1/2 to 4 ft. -----	.89 ea							
Purple Leaf Plum, 4 to 6 ft. -----	1.98 ea							
Flowering Peach—Red or Pink, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.59 ea							
Flowering Peach—2 1/2 to 4 ft. -----	.89 ea							
Peppermint Flower, Peach, 2 1/2 to 4 ft. -----	.89 ea							
Dbf. Pink Flowering Cherry, 3-5 ft. -----	3.98 ea							
Flowering Crab—Red or Pink, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.98 ea							
Chinese Red Bud, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea							
*Tree of Heaven, 3 to 5 ft. -----	.69 ea							
Dwarf Red Buckeye, 1/2 to 1 ft. -----	.69 ea							
Magnolia Soulangiana, 1 to 2 ft. -----	1.39 ea							
Weeping Peach—Red or Pink, 1 ft. -----	.69 ea							
Weeping Peach, Red or Pink, 2-3 ft. -----	1.29 ea							
White Flowering Peach, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.89 ea							
*White Fringe, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.98 ea							
Japanese Flow. Cherry, 3 to 5 ft. -----	3.98 ea							
European Mountain Ash, 3 to 4 ft. -----	2.49 ea							
Paul's Scarlet Hawthorn -----								
Red Blooms, 3 to 5 ft. -----	.49 ea							
*Big Leaf Cucumber, 3 to 5 ft. -----	1.69 ea							
FRUIT TREES—1 or 2 Years Old								
Belle of Georgia Peach, 1 to 2 ft. -----	\$.49 ea							
Belle of Georgia Peach, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.79 ea							
Belle of Georgia Peach, 3 to 5 ft. -----	1.19 ea							
Elberta Peach, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea							
Elberta Peach, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.79 ea							
Elberta Peach, 3 to 5 ft. -----	1.19 ea							
J. H. Hale Peach, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea							
J. H. Hale Peach, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.79 ea							
J. H. Hale Peach, 3 to 5 ft. -----	1.19 ea							
Hale Haven Peach, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea							
Hale Haven Peach, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.79 ea							
Hale Haven Peach, 3 to 5 ft. -----	1.19 ea							
Dixie Red Peach, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea							
Dixie Red Peach, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.79 ea							
Dixie Red Peach, 3 to 5 ft. -----	1.19 ea							
Golden Jubilee Peach, 1 to 2 ft. -----	.49 ea							
Golden Jubilee Peach, 2 to 3 ft. -----	.79 ea							
Golden Jubilee Peach, 3 to 5 ft. -----	1.19 ea							



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A Logical Way to Train More Doctors

A prominently-played article on the front page of The News and Observer one Sunday in February dramatically pointed up the need for increased medical training facilities. East Carolina University's proposed two-year medical school in Greenville would help fill that need.

The article reported existing American medical schools, despite a national shortage of doctors, have had to turn away nearly 100,000 academically eligible applicants in the past 10 years, for lack of room, even though admission committees considered many of them "eminently qualified" to become physicians. A record number of applicants is seeking admission to medical schools next fall, the article added, but only 45 percent of them can hope to get in.

East Carolina's proposal is a practical, economical, logical way to train more doctors and it is clear there is an over-abundance of deserving prospective students. The proposal does not pose a threat to the three excellent medical schools North Carolina already has. Rather it will supplement them and help them make a greater contribution to the medical manpower needs of all North Carolina.

It is already obvious North Carolina's growing population will require more general practitioners, or family doctors, than the three existing schools are producing or will be able to produce even if greatly expanded.

In most major medical school centers many of the students, interns and residents are training for research, specialties and big city practices. Few can be expected to settle in small towns and rural areas.

The proposed ECU medical school will be oriented to community practice. It will draw many of its students from the same communities which need doctors and could provide room for some of the "eminently qualified" unable to get in elsewhere. Hopefully, at least some of its students will settle in North Carolina's small towns and rural communities.

Rural North Carolina is critically short of doctors. The shortage inevitably will grow more acute unless something innovative is done to change present patterns. The "compromise" one-year substitute for the two-year ECU plan is acceptable only if it will enable ECU to bring its original plan to prompt reality. And considering all the facts and needs, a full four-year medical school at Greenville should be developed as rapidly as the University can prepare to have one accredited. *Jim Chaney*

COVER — April with her flowers and showers, unpredictability and sweet breath, is spring at its best. April is blossoms everywhere, from the coast to the mountains, gracing gardens, trees and shrubs, scattered in undisciplined batches in lawns and in baskets for sale on the arms of flower women in the cities. April is azaleas. The photo, showing azaleas in Clarendon Gardens near Pinehurst, is from "The Flowers and Gardens of North Carolina," published by the Travel and Promotion Division, State Dept. of Conservation and Development.

This Month . . .

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TARHEEL RURAL LINES

a commentary on events and issues important
to consumer-owners of EMCs/by J. C. Brown Jr.

If You Want Friends You've Got to Give

A bill passed by Congress last session reduced the influence Big Money has in politics by limiting campaign expenditures. It was a good bill, but the President vetoed it with the excuse that it was aimed mainly at television campaigning. As a result, big corporations and well-heeled pressure groups have been left free not only to buy elections but also to control, through lobbying, the policies of government.

The only recourse left the little man in politics is to raise money to help finance the campaigns of candidates who will speak up for him and against the big operators. The few dollars any one of us can spare can't accomplish much alone, but we can pool our contributions.

We can, for example, put our money together by joining and contributing to non-profit, non-partisan organizations like North Carolina's REAP (Rural Electric Action Program) or its national partner, ACRE (Action Committee for Rural Electrification), or both.

While REAP and ACRE are primarily concerned with rural electrification, they, like the electric co-ops, the non-partisan EMCs, are interested in the overall rural economy, and stand ready to help candidates, regardless of party, who understand and are sympathetic to rural people.

Both the State Republican chairman and State Democratic chairman have appeared at REAP fund-raising meetings in the past year and fully endorsed REAP and its purpose. At a fund-raising breakfast held in Raleigh during the Tarheel Electric Membership Association meeting in March, Governor Scott said the REAP approach, enabling individual citizens collectively to support candidates who support their programs, assures the little man of a bigger voice in politics and government.

"For too many years," he said, "rural electrics took the attitude they should not get into politics or they would get into trouble. What I think they really meant was that they should not get into partisan politics. I agree with that, but many co-ops carried it a step further and applied it to mean you should not take sides with a friend. You did stay out of politics and rural electrification did get into trouble . . ." His advice to concerned citizens: "You must identify with your friends and support their candidacies with your dollars as well as your votes."

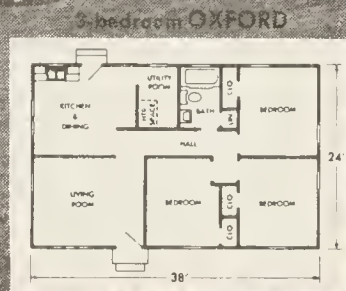
Businesses, including electric co-ops, cannot use corporate funds for political purposes (although many big corporations have found many ways of evading the law and in many cases make substantial contributions which are never reported). But as Scott pointed out, directors, employees, lawyers and members of EMCs, people like you, can make individual, personal contributions through organizations like REAP and ACRE.

In doing so, the Governor said, you can "pool your money to help friendly candidates on a non-partisan basis." The failure to do so, he warned, could put you out of business. What he said applies not only to rural electrification but to all programs beneficial to ordinary citizens which Big Interests would like to cripple or abolish.

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I own property in _____ county

The Family Doctor



The glory today is in big medicine—big research, big hospitals and big city practice. But there still are doctors who choose to practice where good practitioners are needed most, in the rural areas and small towns. Some of them are practicing here in North Carolina. Here, cloaked in the anonymity which the ethics of their profession wraps around its members, several of them comment on their problems and their satisfactions.

Dr. G. was in the prime of manhood, sturdy and self-assured in one of those white nylon blouses some doctors wear when they work.

His office was a one-story block structure with the lines of a ranch house, and he shared it on the outskirts of town with a dentist. He had finished with one patient, a child, and he was prescribing for a woman. His nurse came in to report that the mother of a small boy he had treated

wanted to know if the youngster would be able to return to school the next week. The telephone rang bringing a question from some woman patient wondering if she should continue her pills.

People kept coming or calling, and he still had calls waiting to be answered when his nurse and receptionist began closing the office for the weekend.

Approximately 1,200 general practitioners like Dr. G. have offices across North Carolina. About 800 of them are members of the North Carolina Academy of Family Practice. Several are located in and around Raleigh, and a number of specialists in internal medicine, pediatrics and the other fields including even obstetrics and surgery often serve as general practitioners for some of their patients.

Replacements Come Hard

Rural areas and small towns losing

their older doctors are having difficulties attracting younger physicians. The increasing national demands for medical services is one reason. The local lack of facilities often is another. But mainly people have become accustomed to going to larger towns and to medical centers and in too many instances community groups expressing the greatest need for medical services really want 'first aid' and 'emergency' treatment for their convenience. A doctor can't survive on this type of medicine. Nor can one doctor make it alone. If there is to be one physician in a community, there ought to be two, so that one may spell the other occasionally and so that both may have time occasionally for relief from the incessant pressures to which all good doctors are heir.

There is a shortage of doctors but the medical profession says the shortage is largely one of general practitioners in rural areas and small towns.

If you hope to have and keep a doctor in your community, you have to make it worthwhile for two . . .

There are surgeons and other specialists looking for places to begin practice, medical spokesmen say, while places for family doctors go unfilled.

Some communities in North Carolina have attempted to attract physicians by forming community corporations to build offices, clinics and even homes for them. Some have guaranteed a certain volume of practice, and the doctor hunt in some communities makes nearly as many promises and offers as the industry-hunting campaigns.

A Doctor Should Know

Dr. G. thought some of the attempts and some of the doctors involved in them were headed for failure.

"Putting up a clinic at every crossroads that wants one, and putting a general practitioner in it won't solve the doctor shortage," Dr. G. said. "I know; I went through it.

"They put up a clinic, a little seven-bed hospital, and I took it over and bought it," he said, "and I went broke. It took me five years to get on my feet again."

There's more to the problem than that, he said; the people in the area not only have got to want a doctor, they've got to be willing to patronize him. That's the heart of the problem, he said. Many of the places that bring doctors in think everything is done when they've finished their campaign and built the office and clinic.

When the doctor takes over, he said, that's the end of it. The people in the area see him when it's not convenient for them to go to the doctors in town or they use him only for emergencies.

He's there like the crossroads store, for the things they forgot in town or don't consider important enough to go to town to see about. A doctor, Dr. G. said, won't last long in a situation like that.

* * * *

Dr. McC. is a young bachelor and his office is in a shopping center on the eastern side of the city. Mothers in

the suburban area bring their children to see him when it's not handy to go to their regular pediatricians, and people use him for the things that don't seem to warrant going into the city for visits to their regular doctors.

His practice was growing, but slowly. He's gone now. He went to Chapel Hill for postgraduate studies and stayed to become part of the University's medical complex.

* * * *

Dr. Don M. is a family man who, although only just past 40, has become a leading figure in the affairs of his rural county. He's a general practitioner who performs surgery, delivers babies and can serve nearly every medical need his patients present.

He took over his practice from the estate of an older doctor who had died. He has a clinic equipped to do many of the things small hospitals do, including X-rays; Dr. M. knows that specialty, too.

Once a week he and his wife leave town, traveling to Raleigh for a respite from the relentless demands of rural-smalltown medicine. Another doctor takes his calls then, but on the other days—and nights—Dr. M. knows whether there's company for supper or whether he is counting on catching up on his sleep, there'll be interruptions.

* * * *

"A general practice in a small town or out in the country is hard medicine," Dr. S. said. Dr. S. was nearing the age when men in other lines look towards retirement. That wasn't likely in his case, he said, but if he could find a younger man he could work with and who could take over some of the load, he wanted to split his practice. The trouble, though, he said, is that there's not much to interest a young man, and they're hard to come by.

"A general practice in a place like this," he said, "means you're at the office, or answering calls, seeing patients all the time. Out in the country like this a lot of the people work in town or in the mills here and

there. They need you when they get home. It should be the end of the day for you, but it's often the busiest.

"In the morning you see office patients, sew up cuts, take care of a broken arm for a boy hurt at school, run out to see a woman who is expecting, and see about patients you referred to the hospital. The afternoon is more of the same, and then the evening routine begins."

* * * *

In a small community, Dr. G. said, you're a target for every drive and solicitation. Everybody thinks the doctor is getting rich; everybody wants something from him. If you'd specialized, he said, you could limit your practice, ration your hours and make as much or more with less strain on yourself.

"But I'm glad I'm in general practice," he said. "I wouldn't have it any other way."

A general practice, he said, is medicine in the fullest sense of service and satisfaction. It's not easy to impress that on others, not even others in the profession.

"A rural or small town practice as a life's work is a challenge, he said, and it carries with it the satisfaction that comes from doing what you know must be done.

"But you can't stay at it; not unless the people share your conviction that the rural and small town general practitioner is important. Even that won't help unless they can convince themselves that you're there for more than just emergencies and the sickness that to them don't seem important enough to be treated at the nearest city or big town."

"I know how it is," the doctor said. "I've been through it. And I'm still as sure as when I started that the physician's greatest satisfaction is in serving the patient and that the general practitioner best fills that need."

Jim Chaney

Dimensions of a Crisis

In the 1970s, our national goal was to land a man on the moon and safely return him. That goal was achieved—at a cost of \$40 billion.

For the decade of the 1970s, I would propose a new national goal and a new integrated, comprehensive Federal policy designated to attain it.

Our goal should be the assurance of an adequate supply of dependable, economical electric power—power produced in the cleanest manner possible so that our environment will be protected.

This goal, though less glamorous than sending a man to the moon, would be far less costly. And its rewards, in terms of direct benefits to people, would be far greater.

When electricity—the lifeblood of modern-day living—fails, every business, industry and household suffers. The spoiled food, the cold furnace, the stalled shop machine, the inoperative elevator, the black darkness—these will strike us all wherever we live, wherever we work — Robert D. Partridge.

You, as a consumer of electric power, are a party to a national crisis.

It involves more than a shortage of electric power; it is aggravated by a total energy shortage and by mounting increases in the costs of fuels. It has been brought on by short-sighted policies which have prevented the full development of the nation's hydroelectric potential, created a virtual monopoly in power generation, denied consumer-owned electric systems the means of filling their total needs, allowed the oil industry to monopolize fuel supply including coal and uranium, and which presently keep the REA program in financial straits.

At the 29th annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Dallas, Texas, March 14-18, nearly 10,000 rural electric leaders, including representatives of North Carolina's consumer-owned electric membership corporations, considered the Dimensions of the Crisis.

They were told Americans must expect more power failures, blackouts, brownouts and higher rates unless America comes to grips with the crisis.

NRECA General Manager Robert D. Partridge told them the crisis can be checked only by a comprehensive Federal energy policy. The goal of that policy, he said, "should be the assurance of an adequate supply of dependable, economical elec-

tric power—power produced in the cleanest manner possible so our environment will be protected."

The power crisis is common knowledge, he said. It has been analyzed and discussed by innumerable competent officials and by responsible national publications. It has been viewed and reviewed by private groups and by government agencies.

"Yet," Partridge said, "there are those among our national policy makers who apparently do not grasp the extent of the danger that lies ahead of us."

As an example, he cited the failure of President Nixon to mention the power crisis when he went before Congress to give his State of the Union message and present his program for dealing with major domestic problems.

North Carolina's William T. Crisp, general counsel for Tarheel Electric Membership Association, focused on the crisis as the moderator of a panel featuring Rep. Chet Holifield of Calif. and Carl E. Bagge, president of the National Coal Assn.

Congressman Holifield, immediate past chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and chairman of the House Committee on Government Operations, said the national Administration has failed to take realistic and positive corrective action.

"Over and over again," Holifield said, "I have called for a cooperative effort among those responsible for providing electrical power to add both fossil fueled and nuclear generating plants since it is obvious that all available sources of power will be needed to meet our requirements for energy."

Referring to President Nixon's proposals for governmental reorganization, Holifield pointed out the President had not yet committed himself on recommendations for changing the set-up of regulatory agencies such as the Federal Power Commission.

"Even more serious," he said, "is the question whether the Nixon Administration contemplates the break-up of the Atomic Energy Commission and the subsequent submergence of nuclear power

Consumer's View of National Power Shortage

The pressure is on the consumer. Increases by the power companies, not only in their own retail rates, but in the wholesale rates charged North Carolina's electric membership corporations for the electricity they retail to their consumer-owners are forcing up the price of electricity for everybody. Unable to absorb the wholesale rate increases, many EMCs must raise their rates for the first time ever.

Because the power companies have long opposed efforts of electric cooperatives to build their own gen-

ting and transmission facilities and have blocked Federal power developments which would have made electricity abundant, nobody can be sure any longer of dependable, low-cost electric service.

Moreover, restrictions imposed by the national Administration on REA financing, along with policies implemented by REA consistent with these restrictions, are seriously impairing the EMC's fiscal operations.

What is happening to the non-

profit EMCs is only one of many aspects of many problems which beset all electric consumers. It is important therefore that consumers, regardless of from whom they buy their power, know the dimensions of the crisis, what brought it on and what must be done to cope with it. In this special article, we present the issues from the standpoint of the consumer, as a director of the North Carolina Consumers Council rather than in our usual role as editor of a rural electric magazine. — Jim Chaney.

development to give the oil interests an opportunity to acquire monopolistic control and price manipulation of the great new source of energy."

Bagge, a former member of the Federal Power Commission, said it was "imperative that the nation formulate and implement a rational response to energy needs." He called for extensive research and development programs, including better utilization of the nation's "extremely large" reserves of coal and oil shale and limited uranium deposits and the production of gas from coal.

"The energy scare of this past year" Bagge said, "was merely a preview of what well may occur in the future. Faced with these prospects, it is readily apparent that comprehensive long-range planning will be required... In the absence of such planning, the situation will rapidly deteriorate. Instead of going from bad to worse, it will descend from bad to intolerable.

Nuclear power generation is an uncertain solution, he said, because the present reactors use only about one percent of the potential energy in uranium. Unless a commercially feasible breeder reactor is developed soon, he warned, uranium reserves may run out and the nation may have to halt the building of atomic power plants in the next 15-20 years. Breeder reactors, he explained, would use 80 percent of the energy in uranium and thus multiply the use of the available uranium reserve the equivalent of 80 times.

In questions of the panelists, Crisp asked if new

laws were needed to cope with monopolistic control and pricing. Holifield said there are already enough laws. What is needed, he said, is vigorous enforcement of existing laws.

Will the abuses lead to or justify nationalization of the energy industry? Crisp asked.

Nationalization, Bagge answered, hasn't solved the problems in other countries. Holifield answered the "follow the leader" practices of the industry, as evidenced in patterns of rate increases and in identical prices of all major brands of gasoline, well might bring on nationalization.

Partridge set the crisis succinctly in perspective.

At a time when all the evidence cries for a national policy, Partridge said, "our national power policies indicate we are looking the other way."

"An example of this," Partridge pointed out, "is the government's irresponsible action in suddenly shutting down the 800-megawatt Hanford nuclear plant in Washington State. The output of this plant is a vital portion of the power supply of the Northwest. Even under the best of conditions, the loss of the Hanford reactor would leave the area with a serious power deficit next winter. (Ed. note: The Hanford decision was so ill-advised, it may be altered by the time this appears.)

"Unfortunately, the Hanford decision is just one additional symptom of national policies which are keyed to a badly misdirected set of priorities.

"What are we supposed to think when the

“Where is the rationale in a policy that turns its back on hydroelectric development when all of us are concerned about finding ways to meet the growing electric demand while protecting the environment?”

Administration's 'inflation alerts' tell us the cost of coal, oil and other energy is rising sharply—and then it elects to use none of the tools it has available to fight these critical price increases?

“Where is the sanity in policies which permit the free exportation of coal while restricting importation and domestic production of oil?

“What are we supposed to do when Congress appropriates badly needed funds for rural electric loans and then the Administration refuses to use these funds? And what about the cash restrictions that are stifling our ability (as electric cooperatives) to operate?

“Must we accept policies that—in the face of severe power shortage—tell us there will be no new starts for generating plants and very few generation loans of any kind for rural electrics?

“And what should our response be when our power suppliers hear the same message and rapidly begin to escalate our wholesale rates?

“What kind of sense does it make to change the Internal Revenue Service regulations so as to prevent municipal systems from joining with rural electrics and others in building modern, large-scale generating plants?

“Where is the rationale in a policy that turns its back on hydroelectric development when all of us are concerned about finding ways to meet the growing electric demand while protecting the environment?

“I say,” Partridge told the NRECA meeting, “it is time to speak out against gross inconsistencies in our national policies. It is time to call upon the American people and our government to correct our priorities and meet today's power crisis head on.”

In his call for a comprehensive Federal energy

policy, Partridge said immediate steps should be taken to:

— Restore competition in the marketing of fuels. “We face today a situation in which a few big corporations already have substantial control over the production and processing of the entire range of raw energy materials... The scope of this control is still growing.”

— Establish a National Power Grid. “The United States must have quickly the capacity to move large blocks of electricity from areas of surplus to areas of deficit. We cannot expose major centers of population and industry to the continued threat of blackouts and brownouts.”

— Protect the interest of consumers and electric cooperatives in the allocation and selection of sites for power plants and transmission lines. “There are only a limited number of usable sites upon which to locate the power plants needed to supply the seemingly unlimited demand for electricity... Adequate administrative machinery must be devised so that environmental controversies can be more promptly resolved... Some legislation is very likely going to pass Congress soon. We must make certain our interests as consumers and as rural electric operators are adequately protected in that legislation.”

— Assure reliability in the electric industry without injuring our environment, possibly by establishing a “power administration” which would be reflective of all segments of the industry and of the public and its concerns. “We must recognize the legitimate concern of the conservationists and the general public for protecting the environment against dangerous pollution. At the same time... it would be as unwise to give conservation groups regulatory control over electric power matters as it would be to grant the utility industry control over environmental matters.”

— End dissension between members of the

“The energy scare of this past year was merely a preview of what well may occur in the future. . . In the absence of planning, the situation will rapidly deteriorate. Instead of going from bad to worse, it will descend from bad to intolerable.”

power industry. “In addition to all the other controversial issues of the power industry, we are still plagued with the philosophical strife between cooperatives, municipalities and the investor-owned companies. The consuming public, in my opinion, will not tolerate this costly bickering indefinitely—especially in the midst of a power crisis.” One solution, Partridge said, might be to separate power production from the local distribution of electricity, and such a solution would be worth serious consideration by the industry and Congress, “not only from the standpoint of (intra-industry) harmony, but from the standpoint of consumer service.”

— Launch adequate research and development to solve power problems. “The breeder reactor, magnetohydrodynamics, coal gassification, underground transmission, geothermal energy . . . and other potential solutions to our power needs should be brought to commercial feasibility as soon as possible. The breeder-type nuclear reactor . . . would multiply . . . our total useful nuclear fuel . . . and of all the various types of large-scale generating stations . . . would pollute the surrounding air and water less than any other.”

— Reassess hydroelectric projects, including those previously thought to be infeasible. “The cleanest way to produce electricity is with falling water. And multiple-purpose resource also brings us flood control, recreation, pollution abatement, municipal and industrial water supply and wildlife preservation. It is time to redouble our efforts to insure Federal development of feasible hydro sites. And we must continue to fight to roll back artificially and arbitrarily inflated costs—costs erroneously attributed to hydro development by short-sighted budgeteers and an inflexibly reactionary Water Resources Council . . . This assessment should come now—together with a full-scale

Congressional investigation of the water resource evaluation procedures . . . Something needs to be done to shake the smug complacency and inertia out of our government water resource planning.”

— Encourage participation by consumer-owned rural electrics and municipalities in bulk power generation. “No segment of the industry has enough bulk power now or in the foreseeable future. And never has the consumer-owned segment been more urgently needed to head off the monopoly control that threatens our industry.”

— Remove the Administration’s strangling limitations on the REA program. “REA is using its purse string power to squeeze system general funds and resources to four or five percent—a level at which some cooperatives will soon be unable to meet immediate cash flow requirements . . . For more than two years REA has not approved a single loan to cover the full cost of any major generating unit. These practices are not the result of any published REA policies. They are apparently little more than ad hoc, band-aid bookkeeping designed to cover up the (Nixon) Administration’s failure to recognize rural electrification as a desirable program worthy of the funding and support necessary to assure its continued existence.”

Congressman Chetfield also criticized the Administration’s refusal to allocate REA loan funds as appropriated by Congress for total rural electric needs including additional generation capacity. “Such actions, in my view,” Chetfield said, “are completely contrary to the orderly funding programs needed to meet our nation’s energy requirements. A viable REA system requires adequate funding for needed generating capacity.”

Jim Chaney

Crochet

Whenever the "Free Pattern" section of Carolina Country offers crochet patterns, we are just about overcome with requests. Our January issue's crochet pattern for a scarf and hat brought over 1,200 requests. No other patterns attract the requests as do crochet items.

There is a definite revolution taking place in the crochet world—perhaps for two reasons. Fashion, in clothing and furnishings, has turned to crochet for its accessories. Look through any girl's national fashion magazine and you will see long crochet scarfs and soft crocheted hats, reminiscent of the cloche, shown

with the new long coats and dresses. Crocheted bags and hair accessories are making a big appearance with the peasant look this spring.

In furniture displays, a colorful crocheted afghan on the sofa is desired even in a room with a steel and glass coffee table. Also the crocheted chair covers are making a comeback as our designs in furnishings and clothing return to using cheerful prints, more designs and more fabric in decorating and in clothing.

When we thought about crocheting, we thought about Mrs. Ann Curren, office manager of

Wake Electric Membership Corporation. She always carries her crocheting when she travels from Wake Forest to Raleigh on business. Not known for wasting a minute of any day, she spends any time waiting on meetings and appointments crocheting her current project.

Mrs. Curren expressed her preference for crocheting over other needlework. Then she showed us the latest afghan she had crocheted. It was her thirty-third, but she clarified that figure by adding that two of the thirty-three had been baby afghans.

Crocheting is a relaxing art

Mrs. Curren working on a placemat.



Mrs. Curren's thirty-third afghan is admired by Ruth Allen.



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yet productive for a woman. It prevents the restlessness that happens when you have to sit and wait—on people, on appointments, in a meeting or even while watching television. There is great pleasure in watching your crochet work develop and in finishing an item.

For any woman that has had to give up fine needlework because of eyesight problems, there are many good crocheting patterns featuring the large open mesh crochet stitch using a large jumbo hook.

If you would like to learn to crochet there is certainly a way. You should contact your YWCA or home economics extension agent to see if there are other women interested in crochet lessons and if the group could find a teacher. The basis for most crochet classes is getting enough women together to make the class worth a teacher's time.

What would be a real assistance to you if you want to learn to crochet or are in the process of learning to crochet is the "Instant Crochet" book on this page. The book offers step-by-step directions to learning to crochet. When you have learned, patterns are in the book for ponchos, scarfs, hats, hair accessories and many other items you will want to crochet.

INSTANT CROCHET



"Instant Crochet" is 128 pages of:

- * Step-by-step pictures and quick directions teach basic and fancy stitches for both right and left-handed crocheters.
- * Wonderful information on fitting, altering, finishing and caring for crochets.
- * Patterns for lacy dress, poncho, scarf, hat, and many gifts and accessories everyone wants.

To:
CAROLINA COUNTRY
Box 164, Old Chelsea Station
New York, N.Y. 10011

Please send me _____ postpaid cop(ies) of "Instant Crochet." I enclose \$1.00 in cash, check or money order (no stamps or C.O.D.) for each copy.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
(Be sure to use your zip)

Consumer News

By Thomas J. Bolch

The glamour field of computer programming has attracted fast-buck operators who prey on the aspirations of high school students and their families. Attorney General Robert Morgan's Consumer Protection Division has received scores of complaints from parents of students who have been victimized by gross misrepresentations made by out-of-state schools offering "IBM" computer programming training courses.

To read their ads, one would think that IBM itself is standing behind the instruction. In truth, however, the hucksters are deceiving high schoolers to sign up for worthless instruction at high cost.

Several cases have been reported to the Attorney General where students were not properly tested for aptitude, and where they received correspondence course material which had to be satisfactorily completed before a residency training program could begin. The fee covered both parts of the program, but the student could not obtain full benefits because he could not satisfactorily complete the correspondence course.

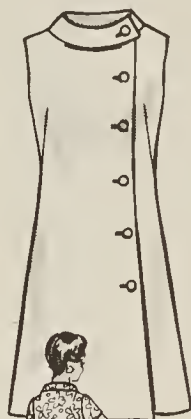
Too late, in many cases, the parents and students realized that they had been duped. When they attempted to cancel the contract, they discovered the contract had been assigned to another company for collection.

The other company usually had the protection of the "holder-in-due-course" concept, and the parents had to pay regardless of any defense they might have asserted against the school itself had it sued them to make them pay the full contract price.

The Attorney General's Office suggests parents refuse to be pressured into signing anything. Legitimate schools do not usually require parents to sign contracts, and they certainly do not promise guaranteed results such as high-paying jobs close to home.

Before signing for any kind of course, write to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and ask about the school—and, ask if there is a State Technical Institute in your area which offers the courses you want.

Fashion FAVORITES



4647
SIZES
10½-20½



9004
10½-18½



4903

SIZES
S - 34 - 36
M - 38 - 40
L - 42 - 44



9456
SIZES 8-18



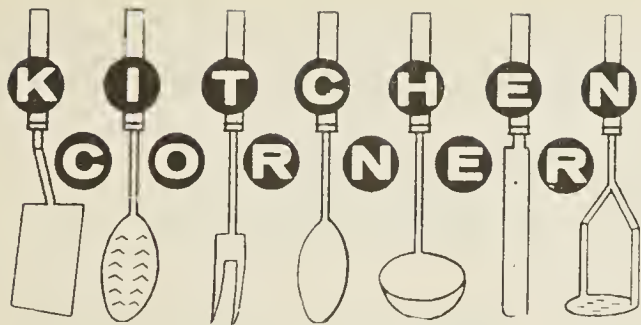
Pattern No. 4647 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½ and 20½.

Pattern No. 9004 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½ and 20½.

Pattern No. 4903 is cut in sizes S - 34 - 36, M - 38 - 40, and L - 42 - 44.

Pattern No. 9456 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18.

Send 75 in coin (no stamps) for each pattern to:
CAROLINA COUNTRY, Box 42, Old Chelsea Station, New
York, N.Y. 10011. For first class mail, add 15 cents for
each pattern.



Lemon Meringue Pie

What's prettier than a lovely lemon meringue pie right out of the oven—the high just-browned meringue waiting to be cut. Mrs. Walter Kennedy of Carthage has sent us a good Lemon Meringue Pie recipe that should be put in your recipe files.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy have three children and three grandchildren. Mr. Kennedy is retired and Mrs. Kennedy is a housewife who says she likes to spend most of her spare time crocheting and cooking. The Kennedys are served by Randolph EMC.

If you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share through this column, send it to: Betty Twiggs, Kitchen Corner, P.O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N.C. Tell us something about yourself and family and give us the name of your electric membership corporation. We pay \$2 for the recipe chosen monthly for this column.

CAROLINA COUNTRY RECIPE

Submitted by Mrs. Walter G. Kennedy, Rt. 1, Carthage, N.C.

LEMON MERINGUE PIE

1 (9") pastry shell, cooked	3 slightly beaten egg yolks
1 c. sugar	3 tbs. butter
1/3 c. cornstarch	4 tbs. lemon juice
1 1/2 c. hot water	1-1/3 tbs. grated lemon rind

Mix sugar and cornstarch thoroughly. Gradually stir in hot water. Cook over moderate heat, stirring constantly until mixture boils. Boil for 1 minute or until mixture thickens. Slowly stir half the hot mixture into slightly beaten egg yolks and then beat into hot mixture in saucepan. Boil 1 minute longer, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and continue stirring until smooth. Blend in butter, lemon juice, and lemon rind. Return mixture to heat for 1 or 2 minutes, stirring constantly, until firm. Pour into bake pie shell and cover with meringue.

Meringue:

3 egg whites	6 tbs. sugar
1/4 tsp. cream of tartar	

Free Patterns



Norfolk Cardigan

All ready for spring is this Norfolk styled knitted cardigan with its own skinny belt for accent.



Tri-Color Cardigan

This tri-color cardigan packs a special plus. Directions are included for women, men and children.



Knitted Vest

This U-neckline vest is a sure winner with pants or skirts. Work vest in slip stitch method of knitting.



Checkerboard Cardigan

Black and white checkerboard pattern makes this sweater an ideal sporty cardigan for many events.

To:

The Carolina Homemaker This pattern offer expires
P. O. Box 1699 June 15, 1971.
Raleigh, N. C. 27602

Please send me the pattern instructions I have checked below I am enclosing a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope bearing a 6-cent stamp. (Two such envelopes are required for more than 4 patterns.)

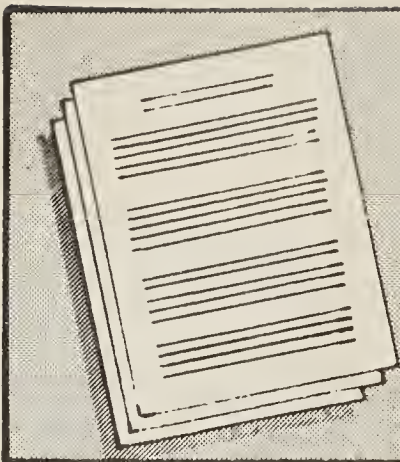
☐ Norfolk Cardigan ☐ Knitted Vest
☐ Tri-Color Cardigan ☐ Checkerboard Cardigan

My name is: _____

Address: _____

Comment; if any: _____

The name of my EMC is: _____



SOME THINGS CAN'T BE PUT OFF!

Every Man Should Make a Will. For the Same Reasons, Every Woman Should Too.

Just as most of us put off making decisions, paying bills, buying licenses and filing tax returns until the deadline, many of us also put off making a will.

Procrastination nearly always results in trouble. The trouble can be destructively expensive when, for the lack of a will, the possessions, real property and money you leave behind get tied up in legal snarls.

If you still haven't filed your income tax returns, start getting them ready immediately. Don't wait until April 15. If you haven't made a will, it's just as important that you take care of that matter with the same urgency.

Changes in income tax provisions have made it more difficult for a person with farm or business income to make out his own tax return. But if your income is mainly salary, you can do it if you will read the instructions carefully and fill out the form as though you were working a puzzle.

Follow the form step by step, line by line. Don't try to out-smart or out-guess the state and federal tax people; they're on to all the tricks, but claim every deduction you're entitled to and be prepared to show receipts or other proof for the items you deduct.

The secret of the income tax game is keeping complete records from day to day, reading the instructions and studying the forms before you start filling in the blanks. If you aren't willing to do that, then you should

pay someone qualified to do the job for you.

As for a will, you can write your own. It must be in your own handwriting and it should be very short and simple. Even so, you're taking a risk unless you understand the limitations of a holograph (handwritten) will. If you have any doubts, you should consult a lawyer, and if you own very much property and have large and diversified assets, you'll be wise to have your will drawn by a lawyer.

A holographic will can, and often does, create additional costs—in legal fees and otherwise. A Raleigh lawyer recalls one holographic will which required a court proceeding to interpret every single sentence in it. Attorneys' fees and guardian fees amounted to over \$15,000 as a consequence.

The consequence of failing to make a will are generally disastrous for your heirs. When a North Carolina resident fails to make a will, he in effect permits the State to say how and to whom his properties will be distributed. In other words, the statutes of distribution enacted by the Legislature become applicable. In addition to not necessarily being the kind of distribution which he would have desired, his failure to make a will almost always brings about costs which would not result where there is a will. For one thing, in the absence of a will, the administrator has to post a bond with the Clerk of Court and there is the expense of a bond

premium. A will in accordance with competent estate planning will often result in considerable savings in estate and inheritance taxes.

Take, for example, the case of a North Carolina farmer who died in 1927 without leaving a will. He had one minor child, five grown children and a widow. The widow received a dowry of 25 acres of land. The remaining land was sold and the proceeds distributed among the children.

The widow never received an adequate income. At her death, friction developed among the heirs over the estate settlement. Consequently, her estate still has not been settled. The land has grown up in scrub timber, the buildings have fallen down and property taxes on the 25 acres amount to over \$800.

Since inheritance taxes are high, you should not wait until you die to provide for your survivors. After you have made provision for your wife or husband, you should give something each year to your children to avoid the full impact of inheritance taxes.

Both North Carolina and federal regulations permit you to give as much as \$3,000 a year to each of your children without incurring either the state or federal gift tax. Under certain conditions, you can give more. You can get full information by consulting a lawyer or the trust officer of a bank or by asking at the nearest office of the Internal Revenue Service or State Department of Revenue.

Jim Chaney

The Poet's Corner

Verses by Our Readers

Spring Plowing

(Reminiscent of Boyhood Days)

Dad was plowing the garden lot
Down by the big oak tree,
And I was his little barefoot boy,
And he was a pal to me.

He let me walk along by his side
And put my hand to the plow,
And I pressed my feet in the cool
moist earth.
I wish I could do it now.

For it is the funniest feeling I'm sure
That any boy ever knows,
When the soft cool mud and the
fishing worms
Squash up between your toes.

Joe H. Beach
Rt. 1, Huntersville

Circles

Expect disappointments and failures?
This seems to bring them on.
And you are tempted to say,
"Of course, just another one!"
Try faith, and remember your blessings.
After all, you've had a few.
There are many folks in the world
Have a harder lot than you.

Jean Moore Smith
West Jefferson

Birds and Berries

Close to my window grew a tree
With berries more than a few.
I saw a mocking bird so cheerie
In his mouth there was a berry.
'Twas a joyful sight to see him
Perched gaily upon our tree.
He looked at me as though to speak.
There was a berry in his beak.
I was glad he saw me there,

Sitting quietly in my chair.
Then he flew so very high
I could not see him in the sky.
A short time I had to wait
To see him return with his mate.
Many berries they did eat
For them I knew it was a treat.
Then each in their beak a berry took

And flew away to a nearby brook.
There some water they did drink
Hovering closely to the brink.
I knew if I would patient be
They'd return and sing a song for me.

Mrs. M. D. Wallace
Rt. 1, Rockingham

See this gorgeous flowering tree change from white to pink
to purple in your yard!

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"Should Classes on Drug Abuse Become A Part of the School Curriculum?"

"Classes on drug abuse should become a part of the school curriculum. Teenagers are always searching for a new path of adventure and a way to cure temporary boredom. Drug pushers and drug users tell these unsuspecting teenagers that drugs are the answer to boredom, lack of excitement, and the door to something new and different.

"But, if educated people in the field of these drugs, could hold regular classes to teach the true and unknown facts about the causes, effects, and results of taking drugs, it may discourage the idea of using drugs and prevent this first 'trip' to experiment, which could lead to addiction."

Judy Watts
Rt. 1
Eagle Springs

Judy is 16 years old and a junior at Pinecrest High School. Her hobbies are reading, music, and sewing. Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Watts, are served by Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation.

"Yes, I think teenagers should be taught the harm in drugs. Maybe there would be less attraction to drug use if more people realized the problems it causes instead of thinking it is the 'in' thing to do. Even if there is not a daily class taught in schools, there should be enough special classes to show teenagers the harm in drugs. It should be taught by a qualified person. Also there should be a few night classes for the adults to learn how to handle the problem, should their child ever get involved with drugs."

Denise Canterbury
Rt. 1, Box 157-A
Polkton, N. C. 28135

Denise is a freshman at Anson High School. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson, are served by Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation.

"I think that if it were possible, classes on drug abuse would be a big help to the growing problem. I have never experienced a 'trip' and I sincerely hope I never do. My history teacher has, on several occasions, shown us very colorful, descriptive, and touching movies on drugs. It has turned my stomach more than once, seeing people shoot their arms full of heroin, and taking pill after pill only to get themselves nowhere. These films are not in any form related to history, but I feel they are doing us a great favor. It might not do us any good at all, but the way the world is today, it's worth a try, isn't it?"

Kathy Lynne Weeks
Rt. 1
Clinton

Kathy is 16 years old and a junior at Midway High School near Dunn. She enjoys music and dating. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Weeks, are served by South River Electric Membership Corporation.

"Yes, definitely. I think that most kids today think drugs as 'a real groovy thing' and not as dangerous as a habit forming. They get this idea from the 'pusher' television, and the radio. From these things a person would be led to believe that taking drugs is 'far out.' If drug abuse was taught in the classroom and not in the streets, the drug problem wouldn't be as bad as it is. If the kids could be shown exactly how dangerous drugs really are, then about 95% of them wouldn't take them."

Steve Waters
Rt. 1
Scotland Neck

Steve is 14 years old and attends Brawley Junior High School. He enjoys playing basketball and softball. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Waters, are served by Haliwell Electric Membership Corporation.

Teen ROUNDTABLE

If you have a good answer, send it to THE TEEN ROUNDTABLE, Carolina Country, P. O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N. C., at once. Tell us a few facts about yourself—your age, school, hobbies, etc. Include your parents' name, and the name of the electric membership corporation serving you. If your answer is published, we will send you \$5.

If you want to submit a question, send it along for our statewide panel to answer. For each question used, the sender will get a \$5 check. Jot yours down and send it to us right away.

NEXT QUESTION

"Should unmarried high school teachers be allowed to date the students?"

This question was submitted by Iris L. McIntosh, who will be receiving from CAROLINA COUNTRY. Iris is a senior at Gates County High School. Her guardians, Mr. and Mrs. Cice Hinton, are served by Roanoke Electric Membership Corporation.

MAIL BOX

Carolina
Country

U.S.
MAIL

Thank you so much for the many fine stories and articles. Many of them are so helpful to us. We enjoyed the House Plant and the Christmas stories. Sometimes I cut out articles and save them. Thank you for writing what to do before calling a repair man. That was very fine and helpful to me and I am sure many others. You write so many good things to help people and I just want to thank you and tell you to keep up the fine work.

Mrs. Billy P. Prince
Winston-Salem

Just a line to say how much I liked our piece—The End of the Road for the Automobile. Very well done and just right.

Jay Richter
Washington, D.C.

We have a summer home in Boone and enjoy reading Carolina Country.

Mrs. Fred R. Bozick
Miami Lakes, Fla.

A good informative magazine.

Mrs. Emmett Sullins
Rt. 1, Bakersville

I enjoy your magazine from cover to cover.

Mrs. Cooper Best
Rt. 8, Statesville

I really do enjoy reading Carolina Country.

Mary Alice Holt
Rt. 3, Mt. Airy

Certainly appreciate and enjoy Carolina Country.

Doris Johnston
Jacksonville, Fla.

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Blow Ye Winds

Blow, oh blow ye harsh, and blustery winds. Gales can not fool housewives. Spring has arrived! For just the other morning a robin hopped near my window. A flash of scarlet showed a cardinal in the lone oak tree.

Oh, blow ye mighty winds! March was just a fooling. Already timid violets peep beside the patio edge. Brash bright crocuses gleam under the eaves.

Blow on, oh fierce force. Last evening at early dusk frogs croaked and that's a sure spring sign.

Spring is here! A housewife just knows. Nature urges a shaking of winter sluggishness. Fresh, fresh everything must be! The bed covers need airing. The curtains could stand washing and rinsing. It is time to shed dark and heavy woollens for lighter and brighter apparel. It is time to snip and to sew slip covers for the cozy chairs.

Work, hurry and scurry about, for housewives revel in spring.

Just whistle, groan and growl, oh, wind!

March was just fooling. Spring has come in!

Mrs. Gwen S. Wescott
Box 67, Camden, N. C.

600 assorted sweet onion plants with free planting guide, \$4.20 postpaid. TONCO, "home of the sweet onion." Farmersville, Texas 75031.



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FOR SPRING PLANTING

Mail coupon before May 15 and get 100 GLADIOLUS BULBS for only a penny a bulb! These glads were grown in the fertile soil of Michigan. Are mixed in a stunning array of reds, yellows, pinks, purples, white, crimson, violet, multicolor, etc., as available. These bulbs are small and with normal soil, care and growing conditions will give you many blooms this year and grow on to larger bulbs that give startlingly beautiful gladiolus colors year after year. Any bulb not flowering 5 years replaced free. Mail coupon now to get this wonderful bargain delivered for Spring Planting. Satisfaction guaranteed or return within 10 days for purchase price refund.

100 GLADS \$1.00 200 for \$1.94 500 for \$4.50

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WEMCO

News

WOODSTOCK ELECTRIC
MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

Pantego, North Carolina

Wholesale Power Rates Increase

North Carolina's electric membership corporations and Virginia Electric and Power Company have reached an agreement on a 9.24 per cent rate increase. VEPCO had originally sought an increase of approximately 33 per cent affecting five North Carolina and 13 Virginia electric cooperatives.

T. Justin Moore, Jr., President of VEPCO, and J. C. Brown, Jr., General Manager of the N. C. Electric Membership Corporation, announced that the rate increase was amicably agreed upon, eliminating the necessity of a lengthy, contested rate case.

The rate, which is subject to the approval of the Federal Power Commission, is identical to a retail rate increase instituted by VEPCO July 1, 1970 and will be retroactive to that date.

This agreement affects Woodstock Electric Membership Corporation and the other EMC's in Northeastern North Carolina. *The increase in wholesale electric power rates for Woodstock, along with other increased operating costs, will require an increase in Woodstock's retail electric power rates in the near future.*

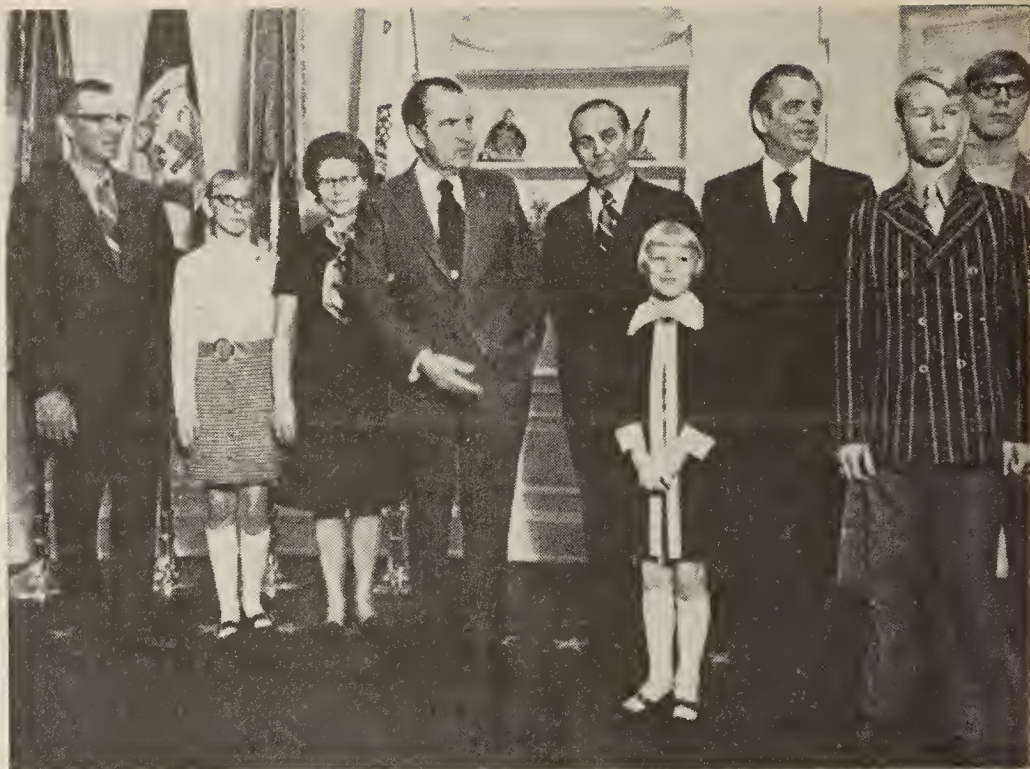
Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8 to 4:30

Office Closed All Day

On Saturdays

Electric service men are on call at all times to correct line outages. However, normal service work is performed only during regular hours.



Assembled in the White House for Farm Family of the Year Proclamation are: Gerritt Boerema, Barbara, Mrs. Boerema, President Nixon, Congressman Walter B. Jones, Renea, Agriculture Secretary Clifford M. Hardin, Dennis and Eddy.

BOEREMA'S OF GRASSY RIDGE ... FmHA's American Farm Family Of The Year

An outstanding national honor has been bestowed on the very deserving Gerritt Boerema family of Hyde County. President Richard Nixon personally proclaimed them to be the first National FmHA Farm Family of the Year at ceremonies in the White House. Nine-year-old Renea Boerema in turn presented the President with a Dutch Delft vase and obtained his autograph. Mr. and Mrs. Boerema, along with their other children, Eddy (18), Dennis (14), and Barbara (11), shared in the honors. Included among the many who congratulated the Boeremas at the White House were Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin and 1st District Congressman Walter B. Jones.

The Farm Family of the Year program, sponsored by the USDA's Farmers Home Administration, recognizes through county and state awards those families who have made outstanding progress with the help of FmHA loans. The Boeremas were recognized last summer as North Carolina's FmHA Farm Family of the

Year at a statewide banquet held in Washington, N.C.

Billy Batchelor, Hyde County Supervisor for the Farmers Home Administration, was probably the proudest person of the honor received by the Boerema's. He said, "Just think . . .

Hyde County, North Carolina is the home of the nation's first FmHA American Farm Family of the Year."

The story of the Boerema's was summed up in a few words when President Nixon said, "You took very little and made a great deal out of it."

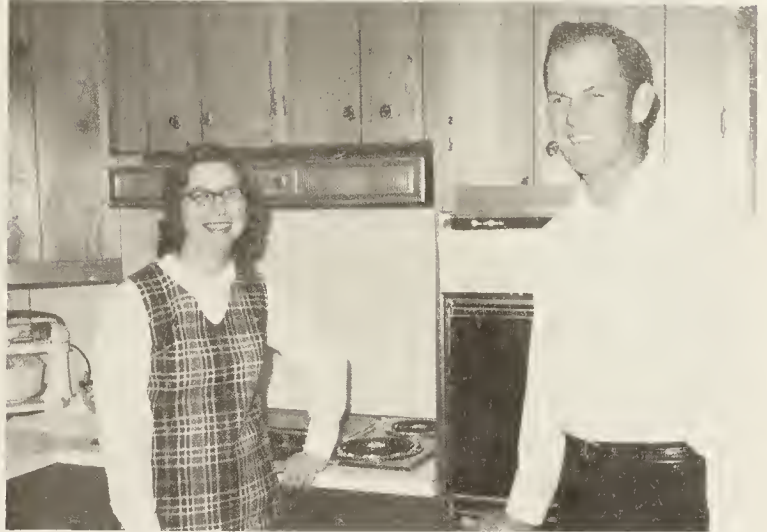
They came to the United States from Holland in 1949 and worked on dairy farms in Missouri and Minnesota before settling in the developing Grassy Ridge area of Hyde County. Starting in 1957 with only seven cows they now have a milking herd of over 100 cows on a highly successful dairy farm of 176 acres. Recently they moved into a modern new home complete with *electric* heat.

The success of the Boeremas proves what can be achieved with hard work, good management, and assistance from the Farmers Home Administration.

Woodstock Lineman Goes All-Electric



The Total Electric Gold Medallion home of Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Newman.



Patsy and Gilbert Newman show off their all-electric kitchen.



Phyllis Newman (right) adjusts one of the individual room thermostats controlling the electric heat while her sister, Karen, looks on.

Several years ago, Gilbert Newman decided to build a new home . . . and build a new home he did. Except for occasional help on special jobs, he built the new home himself. (Of course he does not admit how much help he got from his wife, Patsy.)

The new home was located in Pantego, and during the construction period the Newmans lived in a mobile home located on the same lot.

When the time came to decide on the type of heat, electric baseboard units were selected. With this decision made, it was automatically decided that all the major appliances would also be electric. Their major electric

appliances include a water heater, range, refrigerator, freezer, washer and clothes dryer.

Gilbert and Patsy Newman have three daughters, Phyllis (13), Karen (10), and a recent addition to the family, Sylvia. The entire family is pleased with their all-electric home and particularly the electric heat. With individual room thermostats on the electric heat, each member of the family can select the desired temperature for his or her room.

Gilbert Newman is one employee of Woodstock EMC who knows by experience that . . . "You can't beat electric heat."

Capital Credit Refunds Withheld

Refunds of capital credits, except to estates of deceased members, has been suspended indefinitely. This change has been made because of a requirement from the Rural Electrification Administration.

Therefore, you should not expect to receive any further capital credit refunds from Woodstock in the foreseeable future. As long as available loan funds remain below the needs for loans, this restriction on capital credit refunds will probably remain in effect. Refunds of capital credits will resume again as soon as possible.



Barry Gutfeld (left) reviews the 1970 financial records of Woodstock Electric Membership Corporation with Glenn Carowan, Woodstock manager. Mr. Gutfeld, a certified public accountant, is performing the annual audit of the cooperative's records.

A detailed written report on the audit is being prepared for the manager and the board of directors. The annual audit plus periodic audits by REA are performed for the protection of the member-owners of the cooperative.

HALE!

Swinging Door

One clever lady keeps her hat and coat draped across a living room chair all the time.

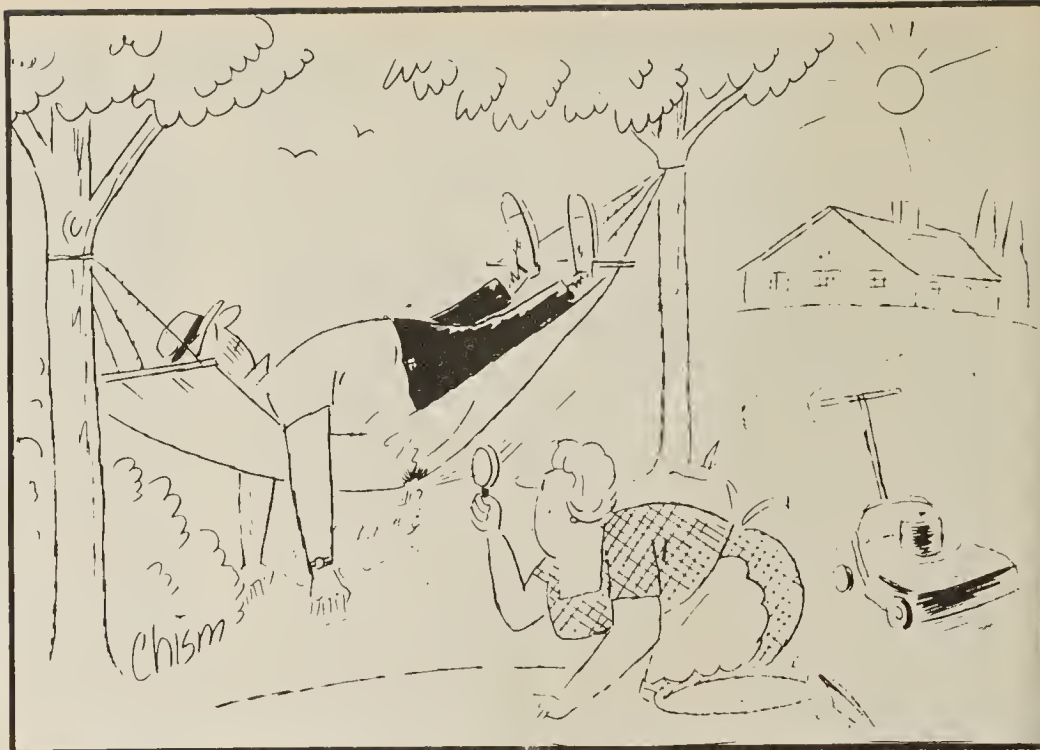
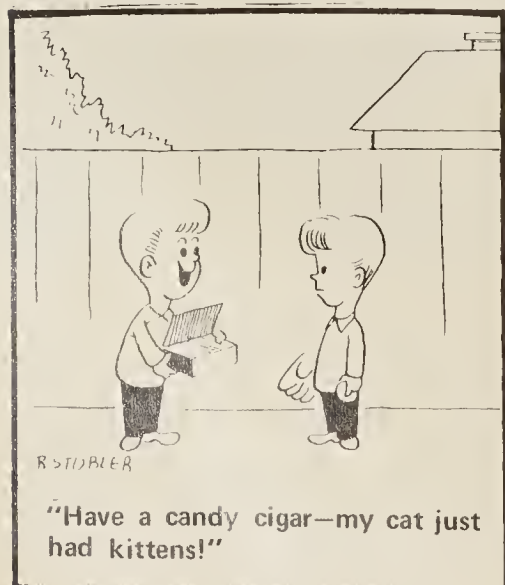
"It's for unexpected visitors," she explained. "When someone I don't care for drops in, I point to the hat and coat and say, 'What a shame. I'm just on my way out.' But if it's someone I enjoy seeing, I can say, 'How lucky. I got home just in time!'"

Anonymous Caller

A very senior officer of the bank became irritated when his call to a branch required at least twenty rings. The unlucky young man who finally answered was belabored for taking so long to answer the phone, and feebly explained that people at the branch were pretty busy. The executive, taken aback by the challenging youth, questioned whether he knew who he was talking to. The boy quickly responded with the question, "Do you know who you are talking to?" Furious, the officer shouted, "No." Over the phone came the boy's reply. "Thank goodness for that!" and the phone line went dead.

Absolute Law

Frazzled housewife's corollary to Parkinson's Law: "Household junk will expand to fill all the space of any attic available."



Woman Power

During the suffragette movement in England, an elderly crusader, jailed often over her zealotry for the cause, was once again arrested and placed in a cell next to a much younger lady who was in for the first time. The older woman heard the young one sobbing loudly in the adjoining cell.

Rapping energetically on the dividing wall, she shouted: "There, there, don't cry! Put your trust in God. She will protect you!"

Stamped-out Mother

Worn out from housework, woman lay down on the sofa for short nap. She woke up when she felt one of her children patting her face.

Just then the doorbell rang. She went to the door and told the salesman she didn't want what he was selling. He looked at her very oddly. On her way back to the living room she looked in a mirror.

Her face was covered with trading stamps!

Poet's Addendum

The monument (referred to in the poem in the February Carolina Country) was erected in 1937 by a Dr. John R. Brinkley (so stated upon it) and the memorial message concludes "in loving memory by Her Little Boy Johnny." rather than think the birthdate was omitted because he may not have known it. I also imagine that she was not really Aunt Sally but took him in when I needed her. What a lovely tribute, one remembered and loved for his ministrations to the ill of the community.

Dorothy Webb
Coral Gables, Fla.

(Mrs. Webber, whose summer address is Lake Toxaway, has had her work published in poetry journals and has won or placed in various state and national poetry contests.)

Same Job Description

An efficiency expert stalked up to the two clerks in a government office in Washington. "What do you do here?" he asked one. The clerk, fed up with red tape, buck-passing, forms, office politics, and above all, efficiency experts, growled: "I don't do a thing!"

The interrogator nodded, made a note, then turned to the other clerk. "And you, what's your job here?" The second man, following the first clerk's lead, replied, "I don't do a thing either."

The efficiency expert's face lighted up. "Hmmmmmmm," he said knowingly, "duplication!"

A Step Ahead In Financing

Two North Carolinians were strongly backed for seats on the first elected board of National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) at the NRECA meeting in Dallas, Texas. CFC is now a going business.

Cecil Viverette, manager of Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir, was elected as manager member of the board for nine-state District I.

James S. Melton, a director of Jones-Onslow EMC, Jacksonville, vice president of Tarheel Electric Membership Assn., received many votes for election as director member for the district. But no state can have more than one member on the CFC board and the District I director seat went to V. Kyle Trout of Pennsylvania.

The first two concurrent REA-CFC loans were made at Dallas to cooperatives in Georgia and Arkansas and two short-term loans were made to co-ops in Kentucky and Minnesota.

J. K. Smith, governor of CFC, told the meeting, "The true significance . . . lies not in the amount of money loaned but in the fact that we in the rural electrification program have embarked on a new course."

CFC was established by the nation's electric co-ops to supplement REA financing. Participating systems have put \$47 million into CFC and an additional \$33 million, representing second year obligations on capital term certificates, is scheduled to be paid in on Oct. 1.

"Our present thinking," Smith said, is to go to the market with our first securities some time after Aug. 1. The exact timing is dependent upon loan demands."

Under present policies of the supplemental financing, REA makes 70 percent of the amount of loans and CFC 10 percent.

Smith said it is the purpose of CFC to assist member systems in moving towards greater financial strength and at a 40 percent system net work as a desirable goal.

REA Administrator David Hamil described the response of electric co-ops to the call of CFC to subscribe

Rational Man?

Man is purported to be a rational being, yet he seems to show little judgment in many instances—especially when it comes to driving an automobile. Year after year, the American public laments the staggering amount of blood spilled on the nation's highways. Everyone is alarmed—the public, the government, courts and police, and the insurance industry. Yet, what is done about it? Nothing really.

Oh yes, we hire more patrolmen, we develop breathalyzer tests and other gimmicks, and we speak of stricter enforcement of the laws. Thousands of motorists will die while the sparring goes on about legalizing governors to control the speed of cars and how to deal with drunken drivers, some of them perennial offenders.

Meanwhile, there is a lot that could be done. First, we have to realize that man is not so rational after all, so he needs a little help. And it doesn't take an automotive engineer or inventor to think of ways to aid his judgment.

Probably countless thousands of people have been killed simply because people—those rational people we assume—don't bother to turn on their car headlights when driving visibility is extremely low. Drivers seem to think that headlights are only to be used to aid THEIR visibility. This isn't the case. Often, headlights help the OTHER driver to see you, and when passing other cars or at intersections this can prevent accidents. It doesn't matter what time of day it is, if because of fog or weather conditions visibility is low, car headlights should be used to warn others.

Perhaps Detroit should be required to install light sensitivity devices on cars which would automatically turn the headlights on. We have automatic street lights and security lights. Why not automatic car lights?

There are many things that could be done to cut down on the senseless number of deaths on the highways each year. Simple things. Inexpensive things. It's just a matter of doing them. Perhaps we enjoy reading bloody statistics. They do make driving exciting. There is always the suspense of wondering if we will reach our destination alive. Besides, what really matters apparently is that we all have the freedom to exercise our good judgments—and to make mistakes. Meanwhile, the beat goes on. *Ed Brown, Jr.*

Tar Heel Crafts Made A Hit

North Carolina made a hit at "An American Craft Fair" sponsored by the Rural Electric Women's Task Force at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's meeting in Dallas, Texas.

North Carolina's booth featured one of the most attractive and varied displays of crafts of any of the states which participated in the show.

The booth was manned largely, in shifts, by Mrs. Barbara Deverick of Blue Ridge EMC, Mrs. Barbara Layton of South River EMC, Mrs. Ann S. Curren of Wake EMC and Miss Patricia Markas of Tarheel Electric.

The articles on display were representative of crafts of the Southern Highlands, loaned by the Blue Ridge Hearthside Craft Association, and included wood carvings, needle crafts, cornhusk dolls, woven items, musical instruments, hand forged crafts and toys. The association, whose members also make quilts, baskets and many other much-sought items, has its offices at Sugar Grove. Information about its products can be obtained by writing to: Blue Ridge Hearthside Crafts Association, P.O. Box 125, Sugar Grove, N.C.

Mrs. Deverick, in addition to helping stage the exhibit, spoke at a panel on "Attracting and Keeping Competent Personnel," at one of the NRECA convention sessions. She is manager of Blue Ridge EMC's Organization, Planning and Personnel Services Department.

to capital term certificates as the most significant event of the year.

"You came through in magnificent

fashion," Hamil said, "and CFC was launched for its important mission."

The CFC board has 22 members.

One of North Carolina's greatest assets is its many excellent, alert and forthright newspapers. Their reporters and editors (they have produced journalists who have become leaders in their profession elsewhere in the nation and world) are front-line troops in the battle to protect the public's interests. The close attention the several major newspapers in the state give to State government has been one of the chief reasons over the years North Carolina has

been the best-governed state in the nation. Unfortunately, the facts brought out by their reporters and the positions taken by their editors regarding utility regulation and rate-making have not always achieved their objectives. But now an aggressive State Attorney General, Robert Morgan, and such aides as Assistant Attorney General Jean Benoy are fighting for the public, too. That, plus the stubborn integrity of those Commission members who put the public's

interest first, has raised hopes the entire Utilities Commission may be becoming more consumer-oriented. The following editorial, from the Feb. 16 issue of The Charlotte Observer says the Commission's decision in the Duke rate case gives evidence of that. The editorial is reprinted not only because it speaks so effectively for the consumer but because it is an outstanding example of the vigor of North Carolina Journalism. — Jim Chaney.

Commission's Duke Ruling Rings Bell for Consumers

The North Carolina Utilities Commission nudged the swing of the pendulum towards the consumer in its Duke Power rate increase decision.

This is an encouraging development. The act of allowing a 10 per cent increase in rates as opposed to an 18 per cent request sounds like no sweeping consumer victory. But the way the Utilities Commission delved into the facts and the questions it raised about Duke's spending practices reflects a serious effort to do justice for the consumer.

Evidence of a more pronounced consumer concern within the Utilities Commission reinforces other developments. The N. C. Attorney General's office now has a consumer division, which took an active and important part in the Duke rate hearings. The N. C. Supreme Court, with Justice I. Beverly Lake probing the records in good consumer-populist fashion, has begun calling public utilities to account for the quality of their services and quantity of their expenditures.

Whether justified or not, the Utilities Commission has been regarded over the years as a comparatively easy mark for the enterprises it was conceived to regulate. It has always been starved for the personnel and, consequently, the expertise needed to contest the batteries of high-powered counsel and the reams of rate-increase evidence offered by the utilities.

The Utilities Commission will be further strengthened when and if the General Assembly grants the increases in its budget requested by Gov. Bob Scott. On top of the able efforts of Jean Benoy and his staff in the attorney general's consumer division, and with the watchful eye of the State Supreme Court as indicated in the Lee

Telephone and North Carolina Telephone rate cases, utilities firms will be put to the proof in rate cases as never before.

Significant in the Duke decision were these judgments and criticisms made by the Utilities Commission:

- Disallowing the costs of Crescent Land and Timber Corp. to be included in figuring power rates, on the grounds that these costs are unrelated to producing power for consumers.

- The spending of unnecessarily large sums of money on civic, charitable and political functions unrelated to the power business. (The company denies it has used money for "political" purposes, and it appears that the Commission used a catch-all phrase to make its displeasure known with non-power producing kinds of expenditures).

- Expensive promotion to get all-electric customers, who contribute to the peak-load problem of insufficient reserves of electric power.

- Insufficient spending on research and technology.

The Utilities Commission nevertheless concluded that higher fuel costs in themselves justified a rate increase for Duke. It concluded that the general financial picture of the company warranted the 10 per cent hike in rates.

This is still a notice to utilities companies to take a hard look at their operating costs and to examine all their business practices. The aim is to give the consumer the most economical buy for his dollar and make sure the service the utility has been franchised for is good in quality and adequate in quantity.

(From The Charlotte Observer, C. A. McKnight, Editor)